

## TROPICAL CYCLONE 03B

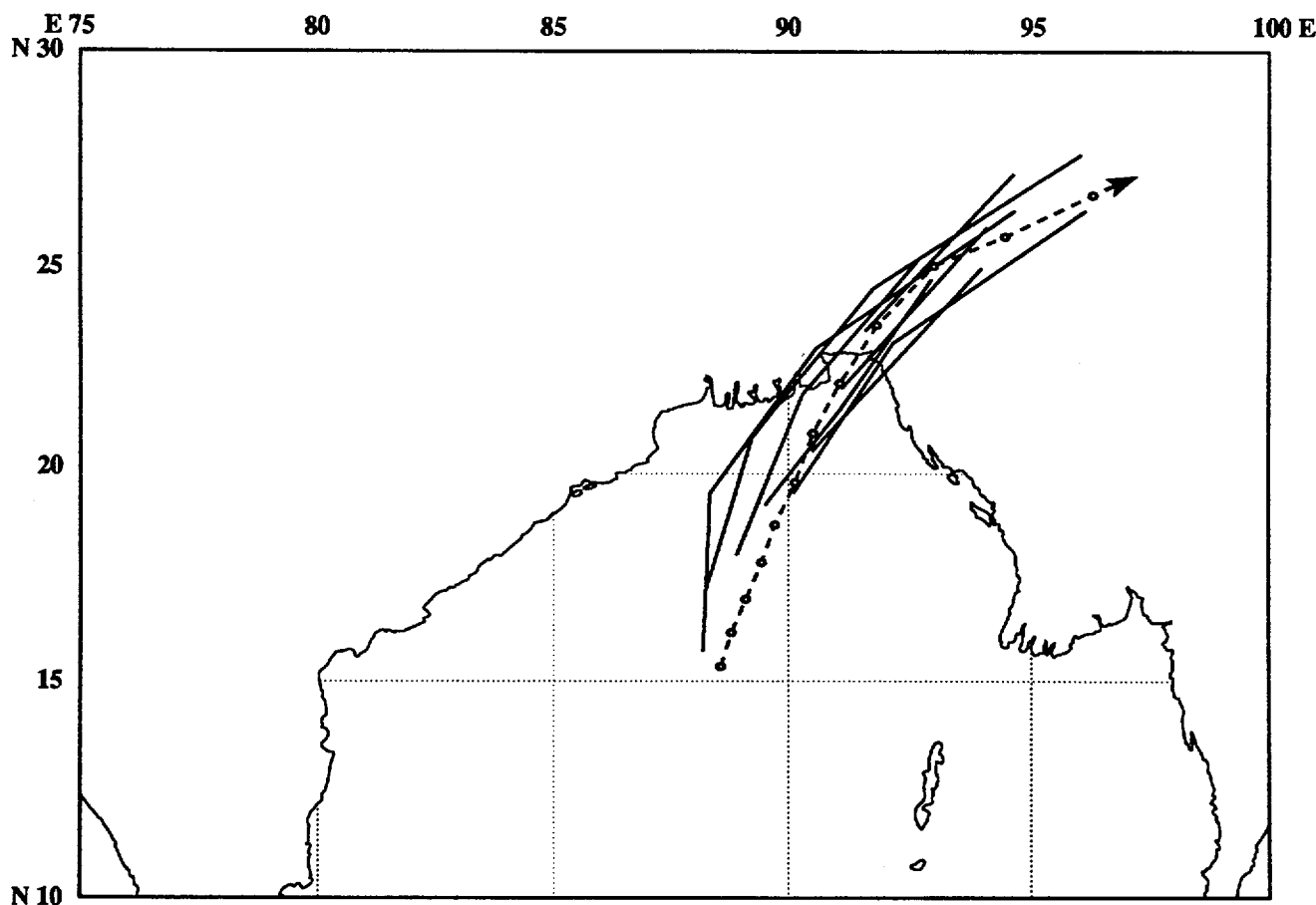


Figure 3-03B-1. In the aftermath of the devastation due to Tropical Cyclone 02B, another destructive weather system, Tropical Cyclone 03B, struck the same coastline of Bangladesh one month later, and caused further damage. Cyclone 03B was initially mentioned on the 291800Z May Significant Tropical Weather Advisory as a weak, poorly organized low-level circulation. Over the next 30 hours, it gradually intensified and tracked westward. As the system began to move northward and gain convective organization, a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued at 310030Z followed by the first warning at 311200Z. Tropical Cyclone 03B reached its peak intensity of 50 kt (25 m/sec) shortly before landfall, midway between Dacca and Chittagong on the coast of Bangladesh at 020400Z, after which it rapidly dissipated over mountainous terrain inland. The final warning was issued at 021800Z.

The cyclone caused minor flooding in Bangladesh and disrupted the relief efforts of Operation SEA ANGEL by forcing the amphibious cargo ship, USS St. Louis, to seek room to maneuver offshore. Tropical Cyclone 03B's impact on SEA ANGEL was minimized by accurate track and intensity forecasts, and by up-to-the-minute information provided to decision makers by JTWC forecasters. A comparison of JTWC forecasts to the final best track is provided.